

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 6-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 3 and 6-9 have been amended and claims 2, 4 and 5 have been canceled. Claims 11-20 are added as new. Support for the foregoing amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

Applicant has amended the specification for clarification. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang (U.S. Pub. No. 2007/0115975) in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0147392).

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang (U.S. Pub. No. 2007/0115975) in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0147392), and further in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,683,887).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that Zhang is not prior art to the pending claims.

The subject application claims the priority of the Chinese Patent Application No. 200410030392.2, filed on March 24, 2004. An English translation of the Chinese Patent Application No. 200410030392.2 and a statement of accuracy are attached to this reply.

Zhang is an international application filed after November 29, 2000; the international publication of Zhang was not in English. Thus, Zhang does not have a § 102(e) date. Zhang was published on May 24, 2007, which is after the effective US filing date (March 24, 2005) of the subject application. Thus, Zhang is not prior art to the pending claims under 35 USC § 102 (a) or (b).

For completeness, Applicant will also discuss the international publication of Zhang and the Chinese application whose priority was claimed by Zhang.

The International Publication Date of Zhang is December 29, 2004. Zhang claims the priority of the Chinese Patent Application No. 03145506.9, which was published on January 19, 2005.

The claimed priority date (March 24, 2004) for the subject application is prior to both the international publication date and the priority Chinese publication date of Zhang. Thus, neither the international publication nor the priority Chinese publication of Zhang is prior art to the pending claims under § 35 USC 102(a).

The effective US filing date (March 24, 2005) of the subject application is within one year from both the international publication date and the priority Chinese publication date of Zhang. Thus, neither the international publication nor the priority Chinese publication of Zhang is prior art under 35 USC § 102(b).

The other cited references, namely Hayashi and Huang, fail to teach or suggest numerous limitations recited in the pending claims. For example, Hayashi and Huang

fail to teach or suggest “presetting a mapping relation between address information of multicast users and a multicast authorities and a mapping relation between multicast authorities and multicast group addresses in a network equipment, at least one multicast user corresponding to different multicast authorities, at least one multicast authority corresponding to many multicast users” of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 11-20 are new. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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